**Carolside Parent Council Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday 29th October 2019, Carolside Primary School

Attendees:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Nicola Edgar | NE | Nursery (morning) |
| Melissa Coll  | MC | Nursery (afternoon) |
| Jacqui McIntosh | J Mc | P1 |
| Emma Williamson  | EW | P1 |
| Pamela Graham | PG | P2 |
| Lise Fisher  | LF | P3 |
| Gordon Bell  | GB | P3 |
| Deborah Wilson | DW | P4 |
| Gillian Cox | GC | P5 |
| Sally Wilkie | SW | P5 |
| Ali Preston  | AP | P6 |
| Helena Almeida  | HA | P7 |
| Rebecca Nicholson | RN | Chair |
| Fiona McKenna | F Mc | Vice Chair |
|   |  |  |
| Bryan McLachlan | BMcL | Head Teacher |
| Jacqueline Dunn | JD | School |
| Jo McGregor | JMcG | School |

**Apologies:**  Lorraine Jenkins P6, Cllr A Ireland, Jaqueline Dunn, Gayle McDonald, Claire Reid P2

1. **Actions outstanding from previous minutes**

RN to send out communications questionnaire – did so 5th November

Connect information

Volunteers for groups, two for equalities and DW will attend the Mental Health Forum in November.

A presentation on music delivery has been requested, due to long term illness this will be scheduled when possible.

Minutes from last meeting in September are approved.

**2. Head Teacher’s Diary, 29th October 2019**

We’ve had a busy few weeks since we last met - I trust everyone had a relaxing September Weekend and October Break. I trust that these news items are helpful to you

**Staffing**

A few items to report this month:

* Jonathan Hull, Digital Technologies Teacher, has left his post here in Carolside to become a staff tutor for the local authority. This is a secondment which is due to finish at the end of the session. We wish Jonathan every success. His post is being filled here in Carolside by Colette McNulty.
* Welcome Mrs Moira Macfarlane, who is our new Acting Office Manager. She will be in post until the New Year.
* As noted last month, recruitment has now taken place in Early Learning and Childcare. We appointed four Child Development Officers, taking us closer to our staffing equivalent for the introduction of 1140 hours next August. Congratulations to Janice Kerrigan, Nicole Paton, Fiona Holmes and Frances Todd. All have taken post except for Fiona Holmes, who will join us in the coming weeks.
* Nicole Fishwick has now left to go on maternity leave. Our thoughts are with her and the family at this exciting time.

**School Improvement Planning**

* Very beneficial time for staff to be together during the most recent inset day. We spent the morning considering how we progress the work around differentiation and grouping by examining how we manage transition and by looking at the importance of identifying and using data to support the judgements we make about pupil progress.
* The afternoon session was a focus on continuous provision in classrooms, particularly focussing upon some of the foremost thinkers in the area of play. More in relation to this later in the meeting.
* A copy of the finalised School Improvement Plan is now available on the school website.

**Cluster Improvement Planning**

* Work is progressing well in this area. Next month sees the first Cluster Forum for teachers, with our focus on The Sciences.
* The Art and Design skills development group continues to meet and a member of staff from Williamwood’s art department working directly with our P5 pupils. Those of you who managed to attend Williamwood’s Art and Design showcase may have seen the work of teachers from across the cluster schools.

**Other News**

Fabric of the Building

* Window refresh programme continued during the October Week.
* Early preparation for the nursery extension took place, with gas and water supplies being taken over from the main building.

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* Very successful Maths Week Scotland, w/b 30th September. Thanks to all who participated, particularly those parents who had the time to help out. Lots of pictures on the Twitter feed.
* Parent Consultations were on the last week before the October Break (8th and 9th October). Thanks to all who attended.
* Friendship Assembly was on the last day of term, 11th October. P3 did an excellent job of leading the assembly and we were very grateful to all who were able to attend.
* Congratulations to the ski teams who participated in the Scottish School Slalom competition. Two of the three teams placed third - P1 to P4 team took part in the finals today.
* Looking forward to the first Open Morning of the session this week. P1/3/5/7 on Thursday at 9.30am and P2/4 and 6 on Thursday 14th November. The two equivalent Open Afternoons will be held during the month of May on a Tuesday.
* W/b 11th November is national Anti-Bullying Week. We plan, through consultation, to update our anti-bullying policy and our Promoting Positive Behaviour and Relationships policy.  We will also be considering the issues around what bullying behaviour is, what prejudice based bullying is, what we can do to stay safe from bullying online, the impact of bullying behaviour and proactive strategies to avoiding bullying behaviour occurring.
* W/b 18th November we will welcome staff from the centre who will be carrying out an Improvement Visit here in the school. This will include a series of class visits, focus groups and a detailed look at the progress made over the last three years and our plans for the future. We look forward to welcoming the team and receiving some feedback that will improve the work of the school.
1. **Playful Pedagogy Presentation**

Presentation distributed as attachment to Minutes.

Questions arising and discussion following presentation

RN: Is this across every year group?

MF: P1 and P2 are established, P3 is rolled out the rest of the school year groups access ‘parts’ of the ‘Playful Pedagogy’ approach. Aspects of the ideology are used but certainly in P1 to P3 it is embedded. One P7 class has changed the layout of their classroom, to change the learning environment to be more in line with PP.

GC: How does that fit into Secondary, when children move up to Senior School?

JMcG: High school doesn’t take such a traditional approach now. This is all about engagement levels; teachers say that children are so much more engaged in their learning, and teachers still make totally sure that children are prepped for High School.

GB: Is this just a trial? Is East Renfrewshire working to any research here? Could this be disruptive if in the future it is decided that we revert back to the ‘old’ method of teaching?

J McG: All teachers are individuals and we all teach differently. We are ahead of the curve in terms of PP – mentions research by University of Strathclyde Dr Deirdre Gragan (?). This is not going away.

BMcL: This is empowering for teachers – in applying the skills learned, that learning really ‘sticks’. BMcL anticipates even further positive impact due to what he describes and the now increased ‘length and breadth of the curriculum. Notes a real passions from staff for this teaching method.

Discussion around parental concerns on PP and communication, including how staff ensure children engage in a full variety of activities and topics. All agreed that the same presentation to parents that we have viewed would provide very useful information and reassurance. Also discussed a ‘learning & development’ section in the newsletter for updates and BMcL suggests Twitter contains a lot of information on school activities.

ACTION: JMc to provide date asap to deliver the presentation to parents

**Teacher Gifting**

Discussion around the potential implications of Teacher Gifting, originally put to Headteachers by ERC Director of Education.

RN puts some general ideas to the group:

 - Could collections be used in a different way?

 - Is there pressure to contribute to group collections?

 - Is charity-giving an option instead?

- Consideration over people with many children. Potential concerns around set amounts for contribution, card only being signed by those who’ve contributed, social media naming those who haven’t contributed, job share etc.

GB: Questions whether ‘undue pressure’ to contribute is really is a bonafide issue that is facing people. Asks BMcL if the school have guidelines. BMcL states the school nor ERC have guidelines. This is a personal decision by some parents and we would not lead on this.

GC asks if we can we make it clear in some way that there is no pressure. Suggests social media as a way to do this.

*(Generalised discussion – some people feel no pressure, others tell anecdotally of times when they or others have felt slight pressure but there is no strength of feeling either way.)*

ACTION: RN will write an email and send it to members regarding this. Suggestion that there could be a mention of urging parents to consider the ‘unintended consequences’ of asking for a teacher gift contribution. Or to limit the amount of money to a simple contribution rather than a set amount of money (usually £5)

1. **East Renfrewshire Development Plan**

R.N will send link to this - we have until the 13th December to respond.

Link sent 5th November.

1. **PTA Update**

Decision has been taken that updates to the playground will definitely go ahead.  A few parents have come forward to help with the design and planning to improve the playground, along with another parent who has specialised knowledge of ‘play’ who can advise on what we currently have that should be kept/fixed/removed.  Also looking at planting of trees and foliage, Network Rail will be contacted to see if we can get some form of agreement for them to supply trees to help replace those that are being cut down as part of the railway upkeep.

The current chairs have been working on a handbook, a one-stop document on all things PTA, calendar of what needs done when etc.

A successor to the chair post, starting 2020, is still in hand, with hopes of an announcement at the November meeting

652 orders were placed for Xmas cards, with orders due back last week of November at latest.  Thanks to teachers and particularly office staff for all their help in this activity.

Photo Day was held last weekend (26th Oct), with positive feedback on the photographers.

Xmas fayre planning underway.

Biggest concern is that we have no raffle prizes.  Please ask anyone you know for any size of raffle prize

1. **Nursery update**

Recent events have included a sponsored obstacle course, monies still be collected so no official figure as of yet.

A family photo day was held and feedback has been very positive.

Zoo tots were visiting the nursery for Halloween.

The team are working towards their Christmas fayre at the moment which will take place on the 30th November.

New helmets have been purchased for the nursery.

1. **Communications**

Questions from RN to the group

Do we want to have more of a social media presence?

Can we have something in the noticeboards in reception?

Do we have a moderated page on social media?

RN will send out communications questionaries’ again (did so 5th November)

JMcI: suggests parent council photos are put up in the reception areas so other parents can identify us.

**8. AOCB:**

Best start grants – Debbie Wilson mentioned this. She suggested a deadline was approaching in which to apply for a portion of a grant that may be pertinent to some parents. Debbie will email JMcG the information and link.

Jotters home – GC suggests that pupils used to bring jotters home much more frequently. BMcL advises that this is under review as the ‘jotters home’ exercise needs overhauled as it is not particularly reflective of the diverse way in which children are now learning.

Action – a working party will be formed in January to look at Homework in general.

Parent Pay – email notifications haven’t been working. GC mentions a specific glitch in the system a number of weeks ago which meant parents weren’t getting reminders that their child’s pp account was low. BMcL will look into this and talk to the office tomorrow (30th October)

Daily Mile possible foot injuries – RN relays a story of a child’s foot being injured and suggestion from the Consultant was that he is seeing many such cases believed to be as a result of children not wearing supportive shoes during the daily mile. BMcL will suggest to teachers that children wear their trainers where possible to do this.

Fit and fruity update – Fit and Fruity Friday is on hold, and is in a consultation process with children after it was decided that really, they should be encouraged to eat fruit everyday not just one Friday a month. A ‘health and wellbeing’ questionnaire is being worked on right now but is in its infancy. RN suggest an email informing parents as to the reasons behind the hiatus – and BMcL says it will go into the next newsletter.

Open Mornings – Some parents suggest having the Autumn Open Mornings as a morning, and the Spring Open ‘Mornings’ as an afternoon, to allow for more parents to attend.

**9. Next Meeting: 7pm, Tuesday 27th November, P7 classroom**